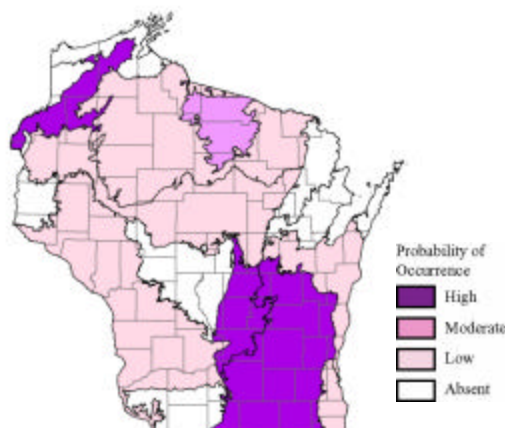


Least Darter (*Etheostoma microperca*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	3
State threats:	4
State population trend:	4
Global abundance:	3
Global distribution:	4
Global threats:	4
Global population trend:	3
Mean Risk Score:	3.6
Area of importance:	3

* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Sand Hills	Inland lakes
Central Sand Hills	Warmwater rivers
Central Sand Hills	Warmwater streams
Northern Highland	Inland lakes
Northern Highland	Warmwater rivers
Northern Highland	Warmwater streams
Northwest Sands	Inland lakes
Northwest Sands	Warmwater rivers
Northwest Sands	Warmwater streams
Southeast Glacial Plains	Inland lakes
Southeast Glacial Plains	Warmwater rivers
Southeast Glacial Plains	Warmwater streams

Threats and Issues

- Shoreline and watershed agriculture and urbanization threaten this species, which inhabits vegetated areas of small lakes and clear streams scattered throughout Wisconsin.
- Aquatic plant control efforts threaten this species, which lives and spawns in areas of heavy aquatic vegetation.
- Non-point source pollution from agriculture and other activities within the watershed is a threat to this species.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Protected areas of lake and river shorelines are needed for conservation of this species, which needs shallow densely vegetated areas for spawning. These types of areas are often cleared of vegetation for purposes including beaches and access to boat ramps.
- Control of non-point source pollution is needed to improve water and habitat quality for this species.
- More information on the biology, status, and population trends of this species is needed.